

Existing law provides for the La. State Board of Examiners in Dietetics and Nutrition (the board) composed of seven members appointed by the governor.

Prior law specified that four of the board members should be registered dietitians/nutritionists.

New law instead specifies that the dietitian/nutritionist members shall be licensed instead of registered.

Prior law provided for renewal of dietitian/nutritionist licenses every two years.

New law provides for annual renewal of licenses.

New law allows the board to assess and collect all costs incurred in connection with disciplinary actions, including but not limited to investigator fees, stenographer fees, attorney fees, and hearing costs.

Existing law allows for exemptions to the licensure requirements for:

- (1) Certain students.
- (2) Dietitians/nutritionists serving in the armed forces or federal agencies if the practice is related to their service or employment.
- (3) Persons licensed to practice dentistry, medicine, osteopathy, chiropractic, nursing, or pharmacy when the practice is incidental to their profession.
- (4) Certain nutrition educators.
- (5) Certain state civil service employees within the discharge of their official duties.
- (6) Nonresident registered dietitians/nutritionists practicing in La. for five days or up to 30 days per year who are licensed in certain other states.
- (7) Persons marketing or distributing food materials or food supplements or explaining such products or furnishing general nutrition information related to such products.
- (8) Persons providing weight control services through a program which has been reviewed by, consultation is available from, and program changes approved of by a licensed dietitian/nutritionist.

Prior law also provided an exemption for employees of a physical fitness center that is a member of the La. Health and Fitness Assn. when the employee was providing information on exercise or weight control to members of the center.

New law repeals the exemption for the employees of La. Health and Fitness Assn. physical fitness centers, but provides that the new law shall not be construed to prevent or effect any person employed on or before August 15, 1999, by a physical fitness center that is a member of the La. Health and Fitness Assn. when the employee is providing information on exercise or weight control to members of the center.

New law provides for representation of the board by an assistant attorney

general, without additional salary, who shall counsel and advise the board and prosecute violations of the provisions of the Chapter.

Effective August 15, 1999.

(Amends R.S. 37:3084(B)(1)(a) and 3088(B); Adds R.S. 37:3092(C), 3093(C), and 3094; Repeals R.S. 37:3093(A)(9))